REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

OBJECTIONS

Claims 9-12, 14 and 16 have been amended in response to Examiner's objections.

REJECTION

Claims 17 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Merckel et al. (6,784,518).

Applicant's Response

The key idea of the Merkel patent is to create a shield below an integrated inductor, and then driving the shield with an amplifier connected to the inductor itself in order to reduce the affect of the capacitance from inductor to shield. In contrast, the preferred embodiment is an equipotential shield, one that is made from a buried layer, a diffused region in the semiconductor substrate itself. Merkel apparently did not recognize the distributed nature of the integrated inductor, and therefore could not comprehend the various degrees of improvement of self-resonant frequency offered by the instant invention. The solid shield of Merkel does not prevent eddy currents, and as such, does not offer as high of Q as the instant invention.

Applicant hereby distinguishes over Merkel by reciting the shield region to be made of a film region deposited over the semiconductor substrate, not within the substrate region

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itself. This includes poly or metal regions.

REJECTION

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Fattaruso (6,160,303).

Applicant's Response

Fattaruso recognizes the distributed nature of the integrated inductor, and also recognizes the need for different voltages that may drive different segments of the shield. He discloses a bottom plate that is a deposited film (metal 1) driven by unity-gain amplifiers, each with input signals that represent different points along the distributed inductor. However, the shield of Fattaruso is in the form of "concentric circles" according to the preferred embodiment of his Fig. 1, and also according to the only independent claim of the patent. This is not the preferred shape of the shield of the instant invention.

Applicant hereby distinguishes over Fattaruso by claiming any shape other than "concentric circles."

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 6, 2005

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